

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1280

S E C R E T TUNIS 0142

NODIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

REF : TUNIS 0140 AND 0141

IN DELIVERING REPLY TO PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER ON ANGOLA,
PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL (KAROU) MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS ORALLY TO CHARGE:

A. DELAY IN REPLY DUE TO EXTREME SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH
GOT VIEWS ANGOLA SITUATION.

B. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S LETTER SHOULD SPEAK FOR ITSELF.
ALTHOUGH U.S. TUNISIAN VIEWS MIGHT NOT ALWAYS CORRESPOND
EXACTLY, IT WAS WITH HAPPY FACT THAT WE COULD SPEAK TO EACH
OTHER ON IMPORTANT ISSUES IN UTMOST FRANKNESS.

C. TUNISIA'S POSITON AT OAU SUMMIT WAS BASICALLY "WITH EGYPT
AND OTHERS." HOW THINGS WOULD GO WAS ANYBODY'S GUESS. TUNISIAN
DELEGATION HAD ARRIVED IN ADDIS ABABA QUITE EARLY, NOT ONLY
BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT
(WITH WHICH GOT DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS) BUT
BECAUSE GOT WISHED TO GET BEST POSSIBLE FEEL FOR SITUATIONS
STRAGGLING IN AT LAST MINUTE; AND THIS COULD CAUSE SUDDEN
CHANGE IN CLIMATE OF OPINIONS AT MEETING.

D. GOT IN FAVOR OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IN ANGOLA
AND MOST DEFINITELY AGAINST DOLE RULE BY MPLA.

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E. REFERENCE TO GOT REJECTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN RIGHT OF
"HOT PURSUIT" (DROIT DE SUITE) SHOULD BE READ IN CONTEXT
OF TUNISIAN EXPERIENCE WITH FRENCH FORAYS ACROSS BORDER DURING
ALGERIAN WAR.
KING

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NNN

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